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Via Facsimile: (703) 872-9326

9D-DW-19324
PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Prada, et al.

Serial No.: 09/682,255

Filed: August 9, 2001

Art Unit: 3677

Examiner: Lugo, Carlos

For: METHODS AND APPARATUS
FOR SECURING A
DISHWASHER DOOR

REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

Hon Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Remarks

The Office Action dated December 16, 2002 has been carefully reviewed and the following response has been made in consequence thereof.

Claims 1, 3-5, 7-10 and 13-22 are now pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 20 and 22 are rejected.

The rejection of Claims 1, 5, 7, 8, 20 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,912,891 to Mercer et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Mercer") is respectfully traversed.

Mercer describes a front-loading type dishwasher 10 having a door 12. A handle member 22 is mounted in a recessed channel 20 of the door and is adapted to be manually moved horizontally to the right and left to latch and unlatch the door. The handle is attached to a horizontal slide 34 by a fastener 36. Mounted adjacent and behind the slide and extending vertically is an elongated bolt member 60. The bolt is mounted for vertical reciprocation on its opposite edge portions against parallel tracks 62, 64. When the slide is moved horizontally between operative positions shown in Figures. 2 and 3 of Mercer, a fastener 66 and a roller 68 are moved from one end of an elongated opening 52 to the other.